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well to the consumer's home, its price increases with the rising cost of living of the carrier. Consequently, families with low earnings are compelled to reduce the use of water to its minimum. The effect of this upon their cleanliness and health cannot but be baneful.

More than 10 per cent of the total average expense, that is $10.54, was expended on fuel and light. Of this amount, the average percentages for the different items were distributed thus: coal balls, 67.1 per cent; kerosene, 17.2 per cent; charcoal, 11.6 per cent; wood, coal and matches, 4.2 per cent. The coal ball forms the chief fuel in Peking households. It is made by mixing coal dust and earth with water and hundreds of shops are engaged in its making and sale. As the coal ball formed more than 67 per cent of all expenses on fuel and light combined, its expense and quantity consumed may here be examined.

Table 10.—Average Expenses for and Quantity of Coal Balls per Family in 6 Months

Income group	Number of families	Average Expenses	Average Quantity *(in kilograms)*
Under $70	3	$5.90	505
$70 and under $110	28	6.51	557
$110 and under $150	14	8.10	693
$150 and under $190	3	8.75	749
All incomes	48	7.07	605

It will be observed from Table 10 that the consumption of coal balls per family per month amounted to about 100 kilograms. This figure, low as it is when compared with that for the working family of other countries,[1] must be considered as sufficiently high for the Peking family. However, some discount must still be made from this figure, because the accounts of our families were kept chiefly in the winter months, during which time the consumption of coal balls must have been particularly great. In the

[1] Cf., for instance, five tons of coal and 26,000 cubic feet of gas which are allowed as a fair standard per year for an American labourer's family. *Workingmen's Standard of Living in Philadelphia* 1919, New York. p. 51.

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374 other months when coal balls are only used for cooking purposes,
511 the quantity consumed must be considerably less. Owing to the disorganization of transportation facilities around Peking, which has become almost chronic in recent years, Peking residents have constantly been threatened with coal shortage and as a consequence, the price of coal has almost doubled within the last few years. The average price of coal balls during the period of our investigation was about sixty-six cents per 100 catties or 56.3 kilograms.

The rising cost of coal balls had no doubt an adverse effect upon the families under investigation. Coupled with their low rate of earnings, it has automatically raised the percentage of their expenses on fuel and light enormously.

511 The miscellaneous group comprises eleven items. Of these, a few require a word of explanation. Thus, medical expenses included doctors' fees and medicine, while sanitary expenses covered soap, tooth-brush, hairdressing, and bathing. Toilet articles were made up of face-powder, hair oil, rouge and other things which the female members of the family habitually use for their toilet. Under tea and tobacco came also alcoholic drinks. Social expenses consisted of presents in money or in kind to friends or relatives. Rates were paid every month to the police for street lighting and cleaning, while contributions were sums given for charity or to the church. Sundries included expenses for celebrating festivals and the new year and also for other purposes not to be classified under the other ten items. Under the same heading was included also money spent on children, which generally meant refreshments and toys.

It has already been shown in Table 9 that the expenses for the miscellaneous group formed but a little more than 3 per cent of the total average expense per family. Now in Table 11 are shown the expenses of all the items of this group in detail. Except tea and tobacco and sundries, no item in this group figured as much as 1 per cent. Tea was consumed by forty-four families, amounting to $33.15; cigarettes and tobacco by fourteen

[1] Cf. Meng and Gamble: *Prices, Wages and the Standard of Living in Peking 1909-1924*, special supplement to the *Chinese Social and Political Science Review*, July 1926. pp. 56-59.